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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 29 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has decided to formally recognize the State of Palestine. Attached herewith is the statement issued, on 29 August 2011, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, informing of the decision (see annex).

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its attachment could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Camillo M. **Gonsalves**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in recognition of the State of Palestine

29 August 2011

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has today decided to formally recognize the State of Palestine as a free, independent and sovereign State.

This decision is in keeping with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' long-standing and unwavering solidarity with, and commitment to, the just and legitimate aspirations of the people of Palestine for the exercise of their right to self-determination and to achieve a homeland of their own, independent, free, prosperous and at peace, and our advocacy over the years for a two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with the people of Israel and Palestine living side by side in their free and independent countries in peace, prosperity and harmony and within secure and internationally recognized borders.

It is Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' hope that the increasing recognition of the State of Palestine will contribute to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the creation of lasting peace and stability in the region. While many core issues of the conflict must be negotiated, the basis of those negotiations is clear: a viable Palestine and a secure Israel. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines believes that negotiations on these core issues must acknowledge the existence of two States, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. The borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both States. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves and reach their potential in a sovereign and contiguous State.